Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-20 (canceled).

1　Claim 21 (new): A method of activating a chipcard for providing
2　services among a terminal, accessible to a service customer, an
3　infrastructure, comprising a network, and a server connected to
4　the infrastructure and associated with a service provider, the
5　chipcard having a storage medium containing an activation code
6　and an initial challenge code, wherein the method comprises the
7　steps of:
8　　inserting the chipcard in the terminal, the terminal being
9　connected, via the infrastructure, to the server;
10　　comparing, within the chipcard, an activation challenge
11　code, received from the server and through the infrastructure
12　and the terminal, with the initial challenge code stored in the
13　storage medium; and
14　　if the activation challenge code equals the initial
15　challenge code, sending the activation code stored in the
16　medium, via the terminal and the infrastructure, to the server
17　for activating a card balance associated with the chipcard.

1　Claim 22 (new): The method recited in claim 21 wherein a unique
2　card identifier (ID), in electronic or magnetic form, is present
3　on the chipcard.

1   Claim 23 (new): The method recited in claim 22 wherein a result

2   produced by the chipcard, through the comparing step, and stored

3   in the medium shows whether the activation challenge code

4   provided to the chipcard equals the initial challenge code

5   present in the storage medium.

1   Claim 24 (new): The method recited in claim 23 further

2   comprising the steps of:

3   receiving by the server, from the terminal and via the

4   infrastructure, the card ID and the result; and

5   verifying, by the server and through a database accessible

6   by the server, whether the result corresponds to an activation

7   code check associated with the card ID and stored in the

8   database.

1   Claim 25 (new): The method recited in claim 24 wherein the card

2   ID, and the associated activation challenge code, the associated

3   activation code check and a reducible card balance associated

4   with the card ID are located in the database.

1   Claim 26 (new): The method recited in claim 23 further

2   comprising the step, performed by the chipcard, if the server

3   has provided a correct value of the activation challenge code to

4   the chipcard, of assigning the activation code to the result or,

5   if not, of assigning a predefined error code E1 to the result.

6

7   Claim 27 (new): The method recited in claim 26 further

8   comprising the steps, performed by the terminal, of:

9   reading out and verifying the result; and

10   providing a report if the result equals the error code E1.

1 Claim 28 (new): The method recited in claim 22 wherein a

2 challenge code present on the chipcard shows status of the

3 chipcard, and the method further comprises the step of setting

4 the challenge code present on the chipcard to the activation

5 challenge code provided by the server to the chipcard.

1 Claim 29 (new): The method recited in claim 28 further

2 comprising the step, performed by the terminal, of reading out

3 the challenge code stored on the chipcard in order to determine

4 the status of the chipcard.

1 Claim 30 (new): The method recited in claim 28 further

2 comprising the step, performed by the server, of setting the

3 challenge code to a predefined value C2 if a reducible card

4 balance associated with the card ID has been exhausted.

5

6 Claim 31 (new): The method recited in claim 22 further

7 comprising the step of storing, on the chipcard, the activation

8 challenge code provided by the server to the chipcard.